THE VETERAN

Vietnam Veterans Against the War

SPRING 1991 **50¢**

20th Anniversary of Dewey Canyon III

Photo Essay

Story begins on page 7

Vietnamese Combat Vet Says

Its Time for Reconcilliation

story on page 10

The Gulf War & the New World Order

page 3

Who are the U.S. Patriots

page 14

Just Say No to War

page 15

P.O. Box 408594
Chicago, IL 60640

Nonprofit Organization
US POSTAGE PAID
Permit No. 1425

GCIU

National Coordinators

Barry Romo
(312) 327-5756

Peter Zastrow
(312) 761-8248

John Lindquist
(414) 96300398

Dave Cline
(201) 963-3380

Bill Davis
(312) 386-1414

VVAW & The Veteran are copyrighted. The insignia is a registered trademark of VVAW, Inc. All rights reserved.

VVAW Needs Your Bucks!

BY JOHN LINDQUIST

It has been many months (at the least) since you have seen a copy of THE VETERAN. We did not have enough money to get the paper printed, though there was certainly plenty to say.

At a time when war in the Persian Gulf is raging, VVAW has a greater ability than any other group to say: Support Our Troops; Bring Them Home Now--Alive. To get that message out, around the country, takes money which we do not have.

Even when the war in the Persian Gulf ends, there is much work to be done. The vestiges of the Vietnam War remain: vets are homeless, vets are sick, Agent Orange symptoms remain, post traumatic stress ruins lives. The Vietnam War will not end until Vietnam vets and our families no longer suffer from the war.

VVAW has gone to foundations asking for money. We have neither the time nor the resources to investigate all available possible sources for more money. National officers all hold regular jobs, have families and obligations beyond VVAW; none of us get any money from the organization but instead pay for what VVAW needs.

The potential for our organization is large and rich; just informing the next generation of the lessons we have learned is a worthy and vital goal. We cannot hope to approach this potential without funds.

So, we turn to the readers of THE VETERAN for help. We need your tax deductible contribution to VVAW. If you have knowledge or experience in fund-raising, we need you to share your ideas with us. If you have grant-writing talents, we need to borrow your talents.

In return we can only promise that we will use whatever money we get as wisely as we can. Please help.

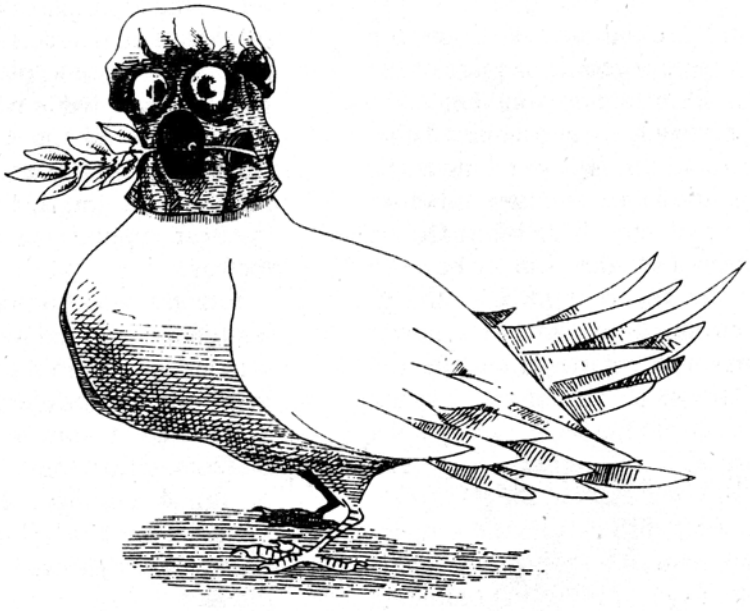
The Gulf War & the New World Order

by Pete Zastrow
Natioal Office

Rising from the ashes of the people of Iraq--the men, women and children--is the "New Order" of George Bush.

Exactly what that "New Order"--which Bush has been advertising since the beginning of U.S. occupation of Saudi Arabia--might be is not yet clear to anyone, including George Bush, but there's no doubt who's supposed to be on top: the victorious U.S. of A.

As the Gulf war winds down and the talk is of massive victory parades, it's worth remembering how we got to a point where almost half a million Americans covered the desert of Saudi Arabia, where much of Kuwait and of Iraq are in ruins, and where the much-publicized "fourth largest military" in the world is routed and disgraced.



On the 2nd of August Saddam Hussein sent hundreds of thousands of Iraqi troops storming across the border to seize the small neighboring country of Kuwait. Justification for the invasion was that Kuwait had been stealing Iraqi oil (massive reserves of oil lie under both countries and along the borders) and that Kuwait, by selling more oil than was allowed by an agreement of the oil-producing countries, was stealing the money Iraq needed to realize from oil sales.

Further, in the early days of the invasion, Saddam claimed that borders between Kuwait and Iraq were the work of imperialist powers (which they were) and were invalid--Kuwait thus was declared the 19th province of Iraq. (The border justification--an approach which would make invalid any border drawn by human hand--was given up in the early days of the occupation of Kuwait by Iraq to be continued only as part of a litany of a few fringe groups in the United States.)

Finally, it seems clear that, in meetings with the U.S. ambassador and other U.S. officials, Saddam believed he had the passive support of the U.S. government which had supported him quite actively during his 8-year war with Iran. After all, the U.S. had invaded sovereign neighoring countries such as Panama with justifications far more feeble than those motivating Saddam as his troops seized Kuwait.

In response to the Iraqi invasion, and proving that the U.S. leadership was just as motivated by self-interest as the Iraqi's, the U.S. began to pour troops into Saudi Arabia. The immediate justification was defense of Saudi Arabia (and its oil supplies) from the Iraqi marauders. Were they really planning to invade Saudi Arabia? We have no way to know, though the justifications Saddam used in Kuwait would not have worked for Saudi Arabia. The U.S. noted that Iraq had far more troops and equipment in Kuwait than was necessary to take that country; but some months later the U.S. would have far more troops than necessary to reverse the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Days after the Iraqi invasion, George Bush announced that the U.S. purpose for sending troops to the Middle East was the liberation of Kuwait. At least, unlike Vietnam, there was no rhetorical nonsense about protecting democracy; not even the staunchest Kuwaiti supporter could claim that the Emirate of Kuwait was democratic in any sense. Even after the

war was over the Emir of Kuwait would not yet talk about elections in his country, nor about restoring a vaguely representative assembly to advise the Emir.

There were 12 resolutions from the United Nations requiring progressively more drastic measures against Kuwait. UN resolutions served George Bush well and he referred to them often. Older, other resolutions, such as those dealing with the Palestinians have been routinely ignored by the U.S. And we have yet to learn all the trade-off's made by the U.S. in order to secure support for resolutions against Iraq (China's vote in support of the U.S. position seems to have resulted in U.S. government's studied ignoring of a crackdown on dissidents).

George Bush tried to occupy the highest of moral grounds as he painted Saddam Hussein as the "new Hitler" and worse. In eager chorus the U.S. media echoed every accusation made against Saddam; each of his sins was headlined (and there were plenty). In fact, Saddam often seemed the best ally Bush could have asked for--whenever Bush activities were questionable (for instance, the bombing of the air-raid shelter full of civilians in Baghdad) Saddam would do something to make Bush look good.

But Bush's high moral ground turned to swamp when confronted with the track records of some of the U.S. partners in the coalition against Saddam. Ally Turkey still occupies Cyprus; ally Syria occupies Lebanon--and the list goes on and on. Just as telling is the U.S. invasion of Panama, just a little over a year before Operation Desert Shield metamorphosed into Desert Storm: U.S. troops overran a smaller country because of a disagreement with the government. U.S. troops installed a friendly government (which holds power today, more corrupt, from all reports, than the old government ever was). Thousands of Panamanians are still homeless; U.S. promised aid for their country is yet to come. Casualties are still uncounted. And U.S. troops are there today--still operating as the Panamanian police force. The situation differs from the Iraqi invasion of Kuwait only because there were no UN resolutions and although much worldwide complaint, no action against the aggressor.

Finally, there was the "new world order," a phrase that seemed to explain everything. What Bush means is still unclear. Some features are clearer, however. "Glasnost" allowed the U.S. to act against Iraq; had the longstanding rivalry between the U.S. and the USSR still survived, the U.S. would never have poured over half a million troops into the Mideast for fear of starting a world war. More than that, George Bush holds the reigns in the only superpower left in the world today. George Bush is impelled to use that power.

In the "new world order" the one superpower will patrol the world. Should anything be amiss, according to the superpower rules, the U.S. will set it straight. Our troops are for hire: if the rulers of Saudi Arabia need our services--and will pay--we'll send troops to the desert. Presumably, should Japan need our troops, we'll provide them--if the price is right. All the U.S. stands to lose is some of its expendable military men and women.

The Gulf War provided the opportunity for more posturing, lying, evading the truth, misleading the media and exalting the military more than any war in history. U.S. military spokesmen regularly met reporters, in front of TV cameras, to lie--live--on worldside TV. The hard questions were never asked--for instance, why was the Iraqi military which, according to U.S. intelligence, was so formidable, falling down in front of U.S. troops? (Either intelligence was wrong or the U.S. military was ballooning the figures in order to make the military performance look better.) Again and again the romance between the military and the media was apparent.

Hundreds of thousands of Americans took to the streets in protest, seeing the Bush lies for what they were--the attempts of the American "wimp" to outgrow his image and assert his fearful masculinity. Protest activities got some play in the press; far too often the peacemakers were portrayed in opposition to those who supported the U.S. troops in the Middle East. That opposing the war, demanding that the military be returned to the U.S. immediately was in fact the greatest support for our troops was routinely overlooked.

Advanced technology apparently won the war. In Vietnam, advanced technology got a bad name since it seldom worked; in the Mideast War it worked (according to military briefers). No one attempted to explain how smart bombs could destroy civilian-populated bunkers: either there were dumb bombs, dumb pilots, or dumb intelligence. The speed with which the Baghdad bunker full of civilians disappeared from the news was only one of many troublesome moments in the war.

*Press coverage throughout was appalling. While the media did occasionally complain about restrictions--the press pool, for instance--members of the media almost never asked the hard questions and allowed themselves to be used time and again. As, for instance, the land war began, TV superstars refused to talk about what was happening with the military because the military said it might help the enemy. Silence swept the networks--but certainly the Iraqi's knew what was going on, and still, no American correspondent noted that the rules were stupid.

*Stories hit headlines, and the corrections appeared on page 37. Remember the oil slick, headlined as the

largest ever, many times bigger than the Exxon Valdiz in Alaska. No one wants to say anything good about Saddam releasing the oil into the Gulf. However, a week or so later we learned (if we looked hard enough) that the slick was only a tenth as large as we had been originally told, and that up to 30% of that was the result not of Saddam releasing the oil but of U.S. bombing. The question is not so much why the information was wrong as how much other information was equally wrong and never corrected.

*The treatment of Saddam himself insults the intelligence of people around the world. It seems that Bush and his advisors decided the American people could not understand the need for a war to protect control of oil (while many people may object to this justification, it is at least honest and could be argued). Instead they must create a holy war against the devil himself (or the "new Hitler"). As this article is being written, on the rack at the supermarkets is the tabloid headlining "The Bizarre Sex Life of Saddam Hussein." The U.S. government seemed to need to do the same thing with General Noriega just a year ago--why cannot the American people be presented with the facts and the reasons instead of evil personified. Saddam is bad enough--and kept on doing bad enough things--that his image needed no help from Bush.

*Was the U.S. intelligence so bad that we overestimated the Iraqi military so heavily? Or did the U.S. military exaggerate the danger in order to look good? Did George Bush know he was sending overwhelming military force against a minor enemy?

*Would this war have been fought at all were Iraq not a third world country? How much was this a racist war? *What happened to Congress throughout the days leading up to the land war. Many of us saw or heard the feeble debate in Congress before they voted to give Bush a blank check to go to war. Most members of Congress, fearful of being accused of not supporting the noble war, simply gave in to Bush.

All of us have our own questions to add to the list, the moments during the 7 months of Desert campaigns where things didn't quite add up. Maybe it was the military briefing where answers avoided questions instead of answering them. Maybe we were among those who said, "We'll win the war, alright, but then what? Has Bush made any sort of decision of the middle East.

Four days were all that were needed to finish off the war. Perhaps the enemy was not as formidable as we thought. U.S. troops captured thousands of Iraqi soldiers who often seemed more than passively willing to be captured. U.S. casualties were extremely small (though to the family of a dead soldier "extremely small" looms very large).

After the four days, after the victory with Iraq vanquished and no other opponent looming on the horizon, George Bush has, according to the polls, an approval rating among the American people of 91%. America can once again stand tall, says Bush, and media columnists mimic his every word. Analyzing the world in 500 words, they proudly proclaim that America's shame over Vietnam is now passed, Americans can stick out their chests and be proud.

If the American people are as much behind the war policies of their President as the polls indicate, there is work to be done. Certainly, the Persian Gulf War is not--and never was--a replay of Vietnam. Unlike those who protested the war in Vietnam, almost none of those who fought against the most recent war did so because they thought the "enemy" was right. And the lessons of Vietnam are as relevant today as they were before the Gulf War began.

There is something immensely sad about the flood of welcome homes, the bounce in the walk of the American people now that they have been victorious. Why must we utterly defeat a not-so-potent enemy in order to feel good about ourselves? Why is the American spirit apparently tied to military victory? How many yellow ribbons does it take to hide the fact that the U.S. was once again wrong?

If we agree that Saddam needed to be stopped, might we have put a couple of thousand troops into Saudi Arabia back in August? Could we then still have some of the so-called "peace dividend" which might be used to teach our children that war is a solution to nothing.

"Three thousand, six hundred and seventy-two statements and statistics released to the press, three hundred appearances before special investigating committees . . . and not a grain of truth in any of it. Congratulations, Colonel."

GI Bill Of Rights HR 648

Support Persian Gulf Vets

by David Cline

WASHINGTON, DC -- Calling on Congress to "commit ourselves to alleviating the pain and economic hardship" caused to American families by the Persian Gulf conflict, Congressman Charles Rangel (D-NY) on January 24, 1991, introduced H.R. 648 -- a $6 billion measure to assist families of troops deployed to the war with Iraq and to provide special benefits to returning G.I.'s.

Congressman Rangel said he introduced the measure, entitled the PERSIAN GULF G.I. BILL OF RIGHTS, in order to allow the American people "to show our support for our troops and their families." Because the majority of military men and women on active duty in the Persian Gulf have families with incomes near or below the poverty line, the call-up has caused economic hardship on the families left behind," Congressman Rangel said. "in my office alone, there has been a dramatic increase in phone calls and letters from families seeking help."

The bill would set aside $1 billion to provide economic assistance to families of members of the Armed Forces on active duty in the Persian Gulf. The fund, administered by the American Red Cross or some other non-profit organization, could be used to assist dependent families for payment of rent or mortgage, food, clothing, child care, fuel and other payments.

For G.I.'s returning from at least 30 days service in the Gulf, the measure would authorize payment of a one-time bonus of $10,000 upon discharge from the military. With an estimated 430,000 Americans deployed to the Gulf, this provision would have an estimated price tag of more than $4 billion.

To ease re-entry of Iraq war veterans, the Persian Gulf G.I. Bill of Rights, would appropriate an additional $1 billion to carry out special programs in employment training; drug, alcohol and family counselling; and health care for physical and other disabilities incurred while serving in the Persian Gulf area. The plan would also provide special housing loan benefits to enhance existing veterans programs. A final provision of the bill would offer job protection for Reservists activated for service in the Gulf by providing re-employment rights to the jobs they left behind.

"The cost of this proposal would roughly equal what we are paying for one week of war", Congressman Rangel said. "I am urging my colleagues to act on this bill, to let our troops know that we are really concerned about their welfare and that of their families. Let no one say that this Congress subjected our returning warriors, or their families, to the shelters of the homeless and the addict population, or to the dark realm of the hopeless."

Twenty Year Anniversary of Dewey Canyon III

Veterans Unite For Peace & Justice!

by Bill Davis

Twenty years ago as the war raged on in Southeast asia, Richard Nixon had unveiled his "secret plan" to end the war – unmerciful bombing of North Vietnam and the expansion of the war to Cambodia and Laos. The expansion, a massive bombing and subversion campaign, was indeed so secret, it was carried forth without the knowledge or support of the American people, except perhaps the CIA.

As the Anti-war movement planned its own spring "peace offensive, the veterans of that same war in Vietnam would that spring on April 18-25 initiate a campaign of their own named Operation Dewey Canyon III – A Limited Incursion into Washington D.C. and the Halls of Congress. DCIII, as it came to be known, was named after Dewey Canyon I and II, which were two separate invasions of Laos. The first was in January and February of 1969 by elements of the 3rd Marine Division and the subsequent invasion of the first seven days of the 1970 South Vietnamese invasion of Laos.

The Reagan-Bush administration have brought us to and over the brink of war, as if war is our only foreign policy, aimed directly at the heart of all third world countries.

Organized by Vietnam Veterans Against the War, the actions of over 1,000 Vietnam vets from across the country would capture the imagination of the American people as the VVAW emblem became a nightly fixture of National network news.

Headlines of the nations papers reported the marches of the Vets on Congress, the Pentagon, the White House, and the occupation of Supreme Court steps. The nation cried with the vets locked out of Arlington National Cemetery and held its breath as over 1,500 Vietnam Veterans returned their medals from that war, an event unparalleled in history. These powerful events, led by VVAW, served as catalyst that propelled the events of that Spring of 1971 into the most massive protests yet seen against the war in Southeast Asia.

Vietnam Veterans Against the War grew to an organization of 50,000 plus members with chapters in every state, most cities and many overseas locations. Twenty years later we look back proudly with the certain knowledge that our efforts helped galvanize a nation to come forward and put and end to U.S. involvement in Vietnam. Twenty years later the power and depth of that broad peace movement still sends shudders down the corridors of the segment of the veterans community that refuses to bow to a seemingly endless parade of war and military intervention. The Reagan-Bush administration have brought us to and over the brink of war, as if war is our only foreign policy, aimed directly at the heart of all third world countries.

On April 19-20, 1991, VVAW will mark the Twentieth Anniversary of Operation Dewey Canyon III in Washington D.C. Scheduled are marches to the V.A. the Capital, a dedication ceremony on the mall, a vigil at the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and numerous cultural and social events. One focus of this event will be the furthering of discussions for diplomatic recognition with Vietnam. Were not returning to D.C. just for a reunion. Veterans and their families need medical care, jobs, and education now more than ever. Twenty years ago VVAW awoke the american public to the reality of Vietnam. Today, we must speak about a decent life for all veterans. And a world without war for our children. Yellow ribbons won't pay the rent. Medals won't ease the pain of pshchological problems. And George Bush won't give us anything without a fight. We'll be marching in D.C. demanding justice for all vets.

Members and supporters of VVAW are encouraged to join us for any and all events in Washington D.C. April 19-20. Information and timetables of the planned events and accommodations are available from the National Office of VVAW, address and numbers listed in this publication.

Money for Human Need, Not War!
Justice for Veterans!

Chronology: Operation Dewey Canyon III

Operation Dewey Canyon I took place during January and February 1969. During a five-day period in February, elements of the Third Marine Division invaded Laos. Operation Dewey Canyon II was the name given to the first seven days of the South Vietnamese invasion of Laos in February 1971. The name of the operation was subsequently changed. Operation Dewey Canyon III took place in Washington, D.C., April 19 through April 23, 1971. It was called "a limited incursion into the country of Congress."

Sunday/April 18, 1971

Anti-war Vietnam veterans from nearly every state begin filtering into West Potomac Park.

Monday/April 19, 1971

About 1,100 veterans move across the Lincoln Memorial Bridge to Arlington Cemetery, some in wheelchairs, some on crutches. Mothers who lost their sons in Vietnam (Gold Star Mothers) head the procession.

A brief ceremony for the war dead on both sides is conducted by Reverend Jackson Day on the small plot of grass outside the Cemetery beneath the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier and the grave of John F. Kennedy. (Reverend Day had resigned his military chaplainship a few days before.)

After the ceremony, a small delegation of mothers and veterans is barred from entering the Cemetery and lays two memorial wreaths at the entrance. The march re-forms and makes its way to the Capitol.

The march reaches the Capitol steps. Congressman Paul McCloskey, who joined the march en route, and Representatives Bella Abzug, Donald Edwards, and Ogden Reid address the crowd. Jan Crumb, member of the executive committee of VVAW, formally presents sixteen demands to Congress.

The veterans march to the Mall and establish a campsite on a small grassy quadrangle

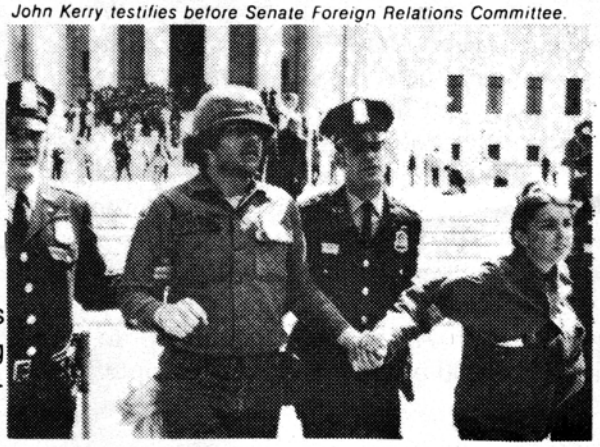
Some veterans go directly into the halls of Congress to lobby against the war.

Washington District Court of Appeals lifts an injunction barring veterans from camping on the Mall. The injunction had been requested by the Justice Department.

Gold Star Mothers and veterans are barred at Arlington.

Veterans march from Arlington to the Capitol steps.

John Kerry testifies before Senate Foreign Relations Committee.



Tuesday/ April 20, 1971

Veterans lobby all day in Congress.

A contingent of 200 veterans, feeling that the affront of the day before cannot be overlooked, marches from the Mall back to Arlington Cemetery. They march single file across the Lincoln Memorial Bridge. The Superintendent tries to stop the veterans at the gates but then backs down.

Wednesday/ April 21, 1971

Lobbying on Capitol Hill continues all day.

Washington Park Police state they have no intention of inspecting the campsite during the night. The cast of the musical *Hair* entertains the troops.

Thursday/ April 22, 1971

A large group of veterans march to the steps of the Supreme Court to ask the Court why it has not ruled on the constitutionality of the war. They sing *God Bless America.* One hundred and ten are arrested for disturbing the peace and are led off the steps with their hands clasped behind their heads.

John Kerry testifies before a special session of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee for two hours.

Veterans stage a candlelight march around the White House. A huge American flag is carried upside down as a signal of distress. The march ends back at the camp when the flag carriers mount the stage

Friday/ April 23, 1971

Veterans cast down their medals and ribbons on the steps of the Capitol.

Congressman Jonathan Bingham holds hearings with former intelligence and public information officers over distortion of news and information concerning the war.

The quadrangle on the Mall is vacant. Not one act of violence has been committed. They came in peace.

Neil Olsen of Russell, Pa., wearing his dead son's army fatigue acket, blows taps before the nedals are turned back.

Veteran hurling medal on the steps of Congress.

Vietnamese Combat Vet Says, "Its Time for Reconcilliation"

NVA combat veteran Nguyen Ngoc Hung at conclusion of meeting with VVAW members in New York City at the last stop of a successful national tour.

by David Cline

In 1969, Nguyen Ngoc Hung was drafted into the People's Army of Vietnam (the NVA) and from then until his discharge in 1975, he served as a combat soldier with the 309th Regiment in the Quang Tri and Thua Thien area. He carries with him many memories of the war along with a tattered black and white photo of his 18 year old brother, who was also in the Army and is one of the 300,000 Vietnamese soldiers still missing in action.

After the war ended, Hung got out of the Army and sent to school to learn English. After graduating, he went to England to further his studies. He is now an English professor at the Foreign Language College in Hanoi, the capitol of united Vietnam.

On November 1, 1990, Hung came to the United States at the invitation of the National Network of Indochina Activists and the Asia Resource Center, for a national tour to promote friendship and reconciliation between our two countries and people. He travelled to many cities including Boston, New York, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh, Washington, Atlanta, San Francisco, Santa Cruz and Los Angeles. While in Washington, he visited the Vietnam Veterans Memorial and on Veterans Day, he joined the VVAW observance at the New York City Memorial, where he burned incense and spoke in remembrance of those who lost their lives on both sides.

Throughout the trip, Hung met with veterans to talk about problems Vietnamese vets face and to learn about the aftereffects of the war on Americans. He participated in Vet Center rap groups and met with many groups ranging from VVAW, Vets for Peace, Black Veterans for Social Justice and Vietnam Veterans of America to traditional groups like the DAV, VFW and American Legion. He also spoke to many church groups, community organizations and labor unions.

During his trip, he often made an impassioned plea for our government to end it's policy of hostility toward Vietnam which ranges from an economic embargo to a refusal to normalize diplomatic relations. "I believe it is ridiculous that we are still fighting the war. It is unhealthy and abnormal. I am here because it is time to put it behind us."

On December 17, Hung returned to his native land. Before he left, he reflected on his mission. "People try to forget the war but they can't--the wounds are too deep. I remember walking into a room full of veterans in New York City. I could tell that they didn't know whether to hate me or not. Many of them were huge, 2, 3 times my size. But when I explained why I had come, they were very friendly. They knew too well about war and about killing. We understood each other better than anyone who didn't share our common experience. To me, it is sometimes frightening to be among old enemies. But the time for reconciliation has come and I have seen that many Americans are ready for that."

The only question is: Is our government ready?

LETTERS

Dear Mr. Zastrow,

Thank you for your recent letter. Your points are well taken, and I too am disappointed that WBBM conveyed that "peace activists" were, in some way, not supporters of the troops stationed in the Mideast.

Over the past month, I have discussed this issue at length with my staff, and from the beginning we have tried to separate the two groups as "peace activists" and "supporters of the President's policy". Again, I regret that you heard a report where this was not clear.

Thank you again for taking the time to write. I trust that you will not hear this error again.

Sincerely,
Chris Berry
Director, News and Programming
February 7, 1991

Dear Vets,

I appreciate very much your efforts. What you are doing lends credibility to the anti-war movement. I attended the peace rally in DC on January 26, but none of your group got around to collect my money. I have always supported peace, but having a loved one over there makes it much stronger.

My beautiful daughter, a very kind, compassionate person, third in her high school graduating class, with everything going for her and with her whole life ahead of her is now in Saudi Arabia as cannon fodder. All the troops, on both sides, are someone's beautiful sons and daughters and loved ones. I was personally devastated when I heard the war had begun, but I am also devastated for the rest of the troops and their families who are being sacrificed by Bush.

Please let us keep together to support **world** peace, and even should this end quickly, let us keep supporting peace for the future of the world.

As one of the newspaper reporters quoted following the Washington demonstration, "They are average Americans. Many people carried flags, and everyone made it a point to empahsize that we supported the troops--but **we wanted them to come home alive.**"

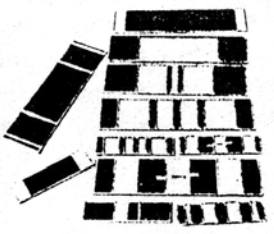
I don't think the administration has prepared the American people for the possible consequences of this war, and they may not be willing to accept them. Already the damage in human, environmental and monetary terms is beyond comprehension. We need to work together to stop this now.

Sincerely,
Barbara Esposito
Rock Stream, NY

Clarence Fitch Honored

On Sunday, February 24, Clarence Fitch was posthumously given an award by Congressman Major Owens of Brooklyn for the work he did as part of the 12th Congressional District Peace Education Committee.

The award was received by his mother, Mrs. Corrine Fitch, who was joined by his sister Marcy and her daughter Tiffany and by Dave Cline and Ben Chitty representing VVAW. Clarence died on May 7, 1990. And the New York - New Jersey Chapter of VVAW is named in honor of him.



Stained-Glass Service Ribbons or Sandblasted Unit Insignia...

Will Warm Any Window In Your Home

SMALL: 2" × 7"...**$10.** ($3 S&H)
LARGE: 4" × 14"...**$20.** ($4 S&H)

ORDER ANY SINGLE RIBBON, OR WHOLE SETS

TO ORDER:
SEND CHECK OR MONEY ORDER TO:
DMZ Productions
3217 Marietta Ave., Milwaukee, WI 53211
414-961-1253

Red White and Blind

Red White and Blind is a collection of songs that deals with the question of who pays and who plays in America. Together with songs written for specific Nam vets I've met over the years, are songs sprinkled with some wit and wisdom. Each song tells a story. Some are unforgiving in nature, with a point of view that isolates and examines those experiences we as Nam vets live each day. I *love* my country but have learned not to *trust* my government. Red White and Blind speaks to this and more.

SEND TO
Boonie Tunes
c/o Jim Walktendonk
P.O. Box 3472
Madison, WI 53704

JUST OUT!

MOVEMENT TO HALT US GULF WAR

A 28-MIN. VIDEO

Over 200 folks from some 40 organizations held a demonstration in Chicago to protest Bush's sending troops to protect oil interests in the Gulf. The Media was invited but boycotted this story. Interviews and protest, with VVAW, Palestinian and Arab community spokespeople, peace activists.

Name _____

Street _____

City _____ State ____ ZIP_____

Enclose $15 check to: Committee for Labor Access
37 S. Ashland
Chicago, IL 60607

Who are the U.S. patriots?

by Robert Oliver
(Mr Oliver was discharged from the Air National Guard as a conscientious objector)

The polls claim most Americans support the president's action of taking offensive action against Iraq. Some are showing support by gathering at public rallies and waving the American flag. There is nothing wrong with that. They love their country and their troops. Many are flying the flag daily at their homes. These are patriots.

However, it is disturbing to me that some of these patriots are criticizing those who art protesting the Persian Gulf war. They are labeled as un-American and as unpatriotic because they are not standing behind President Bush.

What is a patriot? He or she loves the people of his or her country. Is it un-American or unpatriotic to want to see lives spared, not only American but Iraqi? Is it un-American or unpatriotic not to want wives made widows, children made fatherless and/or motherless?

Is it un-American or unpatriotic for a person not to want his or her country to resort to violence and mass destruction to settle differences (Britain says that restraint is "a sigh of strength and not of weakness")? Is it un-American or unpatriotic not to want innocent Iraqi, Israeli, Saudi, maybe Jordanian and Syrian children killed, maimed or severely affected by war?

I have seen some patriots in the Federal Building Plaza in Chicago. Many were there with American flags and placards. One said "Bush is my leader." It is quite strange that I saw no African Americans in that crowd. About 30 percent of the U.S. forces are Black and Hispanic. African Americans have participated in every major war since the Revolutionary War. However, while fighting for someone else's freedom, they still had no real freedom in their own country. Many have given so much to the point of shedding blood for the United States but have gotten little in return. Still they were patriots.

Recently, the President vetoed the Civil Rights Bill. Could it be that African Americans like me have not seen much done to fight discrimination, homelessness, inadequate health care, poverty, hunger, unemployment, drugs, crime, gang violence, etc.? These are our enemies which kill us and make us suffer.

We are seeing the sense of urgency of millions of dollars of the taxpayers' money going to support the war in the Persian Gulf. We are seeing no sense of urgency to use millions of dollars to solve the problems of our own citizens.

Patriot —
one who loves
and
zealously supports
his country.

Country —
the whole
territory,
or the people,
of a nation.

Websters

Also we are hearing no nightly air-raid sirens in Chicago. We are seeing no Scud missiles in our backyards. The Iraqi war machine is not threatening us. We deplore the Iraqi atrocities in Kuwait. I have the Amnesty International report on Iraq. But we have to fight the previously mentioned enemies of our society on a daily basis with little help. We and many others also see this war adding to the destabilization and suffering of the Persian Gulf area. Therefore many of us have no sense of urgency to support the president. Please do not call us un-American if you say you love this country and the people in it. But we are still patriots.

So who are the patriots? Are they the ones who are braving the bitter cold in the Federal Building Plaza for a 24 hour witness for peace and because they love their own countrymen and women enough to want them home alive? Are they the ones who are supporting our homeless veterans who have served in combat? Are they the ones who love the country enough to use millions of dollars to try to eliminate poverty, homelessness, etc.? Are they the ones who will support all the way the 30 percent of the U.S. forces who are minorities if they return home? Are they the ones who say "Give war a chance?" Or are they the ones who say "Give peace a chance?" Who are the patriots?

ATTENTION ALL VETERANS

SAY NO TO WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST

We face grave danger today. Despite massive opposition to war, President Bush has launched a devastating military offensive against Iraq. With the technology available, including chemical and nuclear weapons, war will mean thousands of deaths, untold suffering and long term economic disaster for people world wide.

Operation Desert Shield has already cost over $70 million a day while programs to provide housing, education, health care and jobs and to combat poverty, AIDS, drug addiction and environmental pollution are inadequate and being cut back. Many Vietnam veterans still suffer from post traumatic stress, are homeless and don't have decent jobs. Agent Orange victims are still denied treatment and compensation while VA benefits and services are being slashed. Instead of our tax dollars being used to deal with the urgent social problems we have at home, they are being used to finance death and destruction abroad. Rather than helping veterans of past ward, the government is creating another generation scarred by combat.

Bush says this will not be "another Vietnam." But Vietnam taught us that we have neither the right nor the ability to be the policeman of the world. Now, less than twenty years later, our sons and daughters are being sent to kill and be killed for similarly misguided policies by another trigger happy President. As citizens, we have both the right and the responsibility to speak out in protest. As veterans, we have seen this happen before and cannot let it happen again. It is betrayal of our servicemen and women to sacrifice their lives for oil profits and a feudal monarchy. We support our troops and believe that the best way to do that is to bring them home alive...now!

Our only hope of stopping this war is through massive action. The U.N. Security Council gave Bush his deadline for death. The US Congress gave him a virtual declaration of war. The only obstacle that remains is the people of this country who are against this military madness. Now is the time to take it to the streets.

STOP THE WAR IN THE MIDDLE EAST---NO BLOOD FOR OIL!
SUPPORT OUR SOLDIERS---BRING THEM HOME NOW!
MONEY FOR HUMAN NEED, NOT WAR---JUSTICE FOR VETERANS!

Jerry Genescio, Executive Director & founding President, Veterans for Peace; **Charles Bonner**, Vice President, Veterans for Peace; **Barry Romo**, National Coordinator, Vietnam Veterans Against the War; **David Cline**, National Coordinator, Vietnam Veterans Against the War; **Ed Miles**, Associate Director, Vietnam Veterans of America Foundation; **Robert Muller**, founding President, Vietnam Veterans of America; **Winston Warfield**, President, Smedley Butler Brigade; **Moe Fishman**, National Board Member, Veterans of the Abraham Lincoln Brigade; **Rev. Emory Searcy, Jr.**, Executive Director, Clergy & Laity Concerned; **Michael Gold**, former President, National Association of Concerned Veterans

VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR
WHERE WE CAME FROM WHO WE ARE, WHO CAN JOIN

VIETNAM VETERANS AGAINST THE WAR began in 1967 when veterans of the Vietnam war took up the cause of ending that war. Since then VVAW has continued to fight against unjust wars and military adventures, and for the rights and needs of veterans. Today VVAW stands firmly for peace and for social justice at home and around the world.

As the oldest organization based primarily among Vietnam vets, VVAW confronted the problems of post-traumatic stress among veterans early in our history; we took up the cause of testing, treatment and compensation for victims of Agent Orange poisoning, and still are fighting that battle which has grown to include use of dioxins around the country. We continue to believe in the rights of veterans of all eras to be treated with respect and dignity, especially by the government and Veterans Administration.

VVAW has been out in front when it counted. We catalogued the lies of the U.S. government in Vietnam – when the government said no U.S. troops had been in Cambodia, we had members who had been there. When the Black population of Cairo, IL, were under siege by racists, we used our military experience to convoy food and clothing; ex-medics from VVAW used their military experience to start a clinic in rural Alabama. Again and again VVAW did things that others would no do, took up causes that others would not advocate.

We're asking VVAW members, supporters and friends to join us once again. The membership form is here in THE VETERAN; fill it out, please, and send it to us. Even if you've been an active member for years, let us know you're still there and still a member. We're creating new membership cards – we'll send them out when we get the forms in.

Although based on Vietnam veterans, membership in VVAW has expanded to include veterans and friends of veterans from all eras, all of whom bring their own ideas and perspectives to the organization. As the time of the Vietnam war recedes in history, VVAW members try to keep alive the lessons from that war. We share with others the hope that our children – and any of America's young – will never again have to fight a war such as the one we fought, and that the lives of our friends who died in Vietnam will serve to make another such venture more difficult. To that cause VVAW stands dedicated.

Membership Form
VVAW

Fighting for Veterans, Peace & Justice since 1967

National Office
P.O. Box 408594
Chicago, IL 60640

Date _____

Name _____

Address _____

City _____ State Zip ____

Dates of Service _ Branch _____ Unit ___

Overseas Duty _____ Date ___

Military Occupation _____ Rank___

VVAW welcomes all people who want to join to build a veterans' organization to fight for peace and justice. Although most of our mem-bers are vets of the Vietnam era, we want all veterans of all ages--as well as interested non-vets--to join to help prevent more Vietnams. The initiation fee is $5 to be sent to the National Office.

VVAW is a democratic organization. Chapters decide on local programs and projects under the general guidelines of the national program. Chapters elect local leadership and representatives to annual national meeting where major organizational decisions are made and national coordinators elected. These coordinators are responsible for day-to-day organizational leadership and publishing of THE VETERAN.

Signature _____

(Make checks payable to VVAW; all contributions are tax-deductible.)